

November 2007

Dear Friends,

Christmas Greetings to you all. It hardly seems possible that Advent starts next week! This letter comes with a package of things to delight your Advent. Westminster Word will keep you up-to-date with our activities, and our prayer list to add to your prayers for all that God has called us to here in Westminster. And finally our Christmas card to bring our love and hopes that you will have a happy and joyous Christmas, and a New Year lived in the strength of the Lord.

The Gathering, a celebration of Charles Wesley, his life and his music was held yesterday at Methodist Central Hall. It was a wonderful occasion, with the Great Hall three quarters full, orchestra, organ, choir and children's choir singing the great hymns of Wesley. There were members of Sanctuary in period costumes to welcome people, an exhibition, and Charles Wesley himself in the form of actor Tony Jasper who has been touring the country with a play about him. The dome was not quite raised but it was very uplifting to be singing some of those great hymns together. Martin Turner challenged us not only to sing but to live with passion what we were singing about.

We are looking forward to all the activities leading up to Christmas which are detailed in Westminster Word. Our Christmas is tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to Alistair Lilley, his wife Zoe and daughter Sarah as they move to the Netherlands where he takes up his new job. We shall miss his skilled, joyful and enthusiastic music making, and the Junior Church will miss Zoë's leadership. We wish them well.

We look forward to welcoming any of you who are coming to London in the next months and hope you can visit us and join in some of our activities.

We pray that you will be strengthened in your calling and that in Wesley's words which we sang together:-

Jesus confirm my hearts desire  
To work, and speak, and think for Thee;  
Still let me guard the holy fire,  
And still stir up thy gift in me.

Yours in Christ

Daphne Horder  
Secretary